



Descent Barotrauma Quiz

1. What does the term “barotrauma” mean?
2. List the 3 main types of descent barotrauma.
 - a. List the signs and symptoms of each of these.
3. Draw a picture of the ear, distinguishing the outer, middle and inner ear and showing the eustachian tube.
4. Draw a picture of the skull showing the 4 sinuses.
5. What is the relationship between pressure and volume (Boyles Law)?
 - a. How does it relate to descent barotrauma?
6. Descent barotraumas are often referred to as “squeeze injuries”.
 - a. How do they occur?
 - b. What happens physiologically?
7. How can you as a diver avoid descent barotrauma?
8. When should a diver equalise?
9. Why is over forceful equalisation risky? What is the risk?
 - a. If you suspect this may have happened to you or your buddy, what should you do?
10. After a dive, a diver surfaces with blood in their mask.
 - a. What has happened?
 - b. What should they do?
11. On a multi-day dive trip, many divers experience some tenderness in their ears and increasing difficulty equalising.
 - a. What is happening?
 - b. What is the risk if they continue to dive and it gets worse?

12. Decongestants are often used fairly indiscriminately by divers.
 - a. What do these drugs do?
 - b. What is the major risk in using decongestants?
13. What is Alternobaric Vertigo?
 - a. How does it occur?
 - b. What are the signs and symptoms?
 - c. What problems can this cause a diver?
14. Your buddy surfaces after a dive with puffy eyelids and slightly bloodshot eyes. They are puzzled and a little worried. What would you tell them and how could they avoid this happening again?
15. After a dive you develop a toothache?
 - a. What has happened?
 - b. What should you do?